

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12
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O R 041601Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1985
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4502

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY ANTISAARI'S STAFF

1. AMBASSADOR SOLE'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN ABOUT THE INCLUSION
IN AHTISAARI'S SURVEY TEAM OF ELIZABETH LANDIS AND OTHERS,
WHO HE ASSERTS HAVE AN ANTI-SOUTH AFRICAN BIAS, UNDERSCORES
THE NEED FOR AHTISAARI TO EXERCISE STRICT DISCIPLINE OVER
ALL MEMBERS OF HIS TEAM WITH RESPECT TO THEIR PUBLIC
STATEMENTS.

2. SHOULD MEMBERS OF AHTISAARI'S STAFF MAKE ANY PUBLIC
COMMENTS CONSIDERED INACCURATE, PARTISAN, PROVOCATIVE OR
OTHERWISE UNACCEPTABLE BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS, THERE IS
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BOUND TO BE A PROMPT VIGOROUS PUBLIC RESPONSE FROM THE
SAG. PARTICULARLY IF ANY MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE ARE INVOLVED--
E.G., THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNSR AND THE AG, THE SIZE
AND DISPOSITION OF UNTAG, OR THE QUESTION OF VOTER REGIS-
TRATION--SOUTH AFRICA'S RESPONSES WOULD ALMOST INEVITABLY
TEND TO FREEZE THE SAG POSITION AND MAKE COMPROMISE MUCH
MORE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

3. THE NEED FOR PRUDENT RESTRAINT BY AHTISAARI
AND HIS STAFF IS, IN OUR VIEW, OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE AT THIS
STAGE BEFORE THE UN IS ESTABLISHED AND FUNCTIONING ON THE
GROUND IN NAMIBIA. WHAT AHTISSAARI HIMSELF SAYS IS
OBVIOUSLY A MATTER OF HIS OWN DISCRETION AND JUDGEMENT,
BUT IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF THAT DISCRETION WERE TO BE OVERSHADOWED
BY PERSONAL COMMENTS OR EXPRESSIONS OF ATTITUDE BY ANY OF HIS
STAFF.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 04 aug 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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